



Hawai'i Convention Center
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David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Wednesday, February 12, 2020
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #329

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1945
RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

Chairs Onishi and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Holt and Nakamura, and members of the Committees on Tourism & International Affairs, and Human Services & Homelessness: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** House Bill 1945, which allocates Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenues into the Tourism Special Fund and appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) and the Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA) to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds.

HB1945 would help Hawai'i in its efforts to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas across the state. Homelessness is a major issue in Hawai'i, and it impacts both the visitor industry and our residents. We believe a coordinated and focused effort which provides resources and support to address homelessness is a proven approach. If this measure is passed, we will be able to work collaboratively with HLTA, the private sector and community to leverage funding that'll help to address homelessness in our tourist and resort areas, thereby creating a more positive experience for both our visitors and residents.

It is for these reasons that HTA **supports** HB1945. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 12, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair
House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs

The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: HB 1945 – RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments. The Coordinator supports the efforts of the tourism industry in taking an active role in addressing homelessness, and recognizes the need for collaboration across a broad cross-sector of stakeholders.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests the Legislature consider requiring the Hawaii Tourism Association (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA) to consult with the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) prior to finalizing funding awards for projects addressing homelessness.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to allocate Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriate funds HTA and HLTA to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds. The bill also requires HTA to report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 regular session.

The HICH, a 27-member advisory council chaired by the Coordinator, is required by statute to “serve as the statewide homelessness planning and policy development entity with broad representation from state and county government and the community.” The HICH

membership includes the county homeless coordinators for Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii island, who are tasked with developing and implementing local plans to address homelessness, including in tourist and resort areas on their respective islands. Accordingly, the Coordinator requests the Legislature consider an amendment to require HTA and HLTA to consult with the HICH prior to finalizing funding awards for projects addressing homelessness. Consultation with the HICH would provide feedback from the counties and CoCs regarding existing homeless programs in the community, and would identify opportunities to scale successful programs and address gaps in services in specific geographic areas.

The Coordinator notes that this bill is similar to Act 86, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018, which appropriated \$1,000,000 to HTA – to be matched dollar for dollar by the private sector – to address homelessness in tourism and resort areas statewide. A total of 107 projects statewide were supported by the Act 86 funding, with the following breakdown by island:

- Oahu: 55 projects (\$453,262.27)
- Kauai: 18 projects (\$100,405.85)
- Maui: 18 projects (\$307,684.02)
- Hawaii: 16 projects (\$138,647.86)

The Act 86 (SLH 2018) project amounts funded by HTA ranged from a minimum of \$97.00 to a maximum of \$99,500.00, with the average HTA project award being \$9,346.00 per project. The projects included a number of statewide and island wide projects, which included general intake and referral for homeless services, support for abused children, home repair, food distribution, school supply distribution, a security patrol pilot project in Chinatown, and free dental services. A complete listing of projects funded by HTA through Act 86 can be viewed at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/homelessness-and-tourism-industry/>.

As new initiatives to address homelessness emerge in other sectors, it is important to develop shared metrics so that efforts can be consistently evaluated across multiple sectors and systems. It was difficult to evaluate the overall impact of the projects on reducing homelessness based on the reports submitted by the projects for Act 86 (SLH 2018). In addition, due to the small amount of the project awards, many projects reported numbers served by their larger organization rather than the number of people specifically served by the

funding that was provided. If HTA and HLTA were to consult with the HICH, the council could assist in identifying specific data points and metrics to more effectively evaluate the direct impact of HTA and HLTA funded projects on reducing homelessness or preventing homelessness. For example, data points could include the number of individuals placed into permanent housing, the average length of stay in homeless programs, the number of individuals residing in Hawaii for less than 12 months, and the number of individuals who increase household income.

The Coordinator notes that the proposed consultation with the HICH is consistent with the council's role of coordinating statewide planning and policy relating to homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TRANSIENT ACCOMODATIONS; Modify Earmarks

BILL NUMBER: HB 1945

INTRODUCED BY: ONISHI, CACHOLA, CREAGAN, GATES, HOLT, LUKE,
MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, OKIMOTO, PERRUSO, TARNAS, TODD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Allocates TAT revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds. Requires HTA to report to the 2021 legislature. Earmarks in general decrease transparency and accountability, and should be avoided.

SYNOPSIS: Amends section 237D-6.5, HRS, to add a new earmark on TAT revenues. Beginning on July 1, 2020, \$1,500,000 shall be allocated to the tourism special fund; provided that the Hawaii tourism authority shall use the funds, in conjunction with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas; provided further that no funds shall be released unless matched dollar-for-dollar by the private sector.

Requires a report to be submitted 20 days prior to the convening of the 2021 legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2020.

STAFF COMMENTS: As with any earmarking of revenues, the legislature will be preapproving each of the initiatives fed by the tax earmark, so expenses from the funds largely avoid legislative scrutiny, and the effectiveness of the programs funded becomes harder to ascertain. It is also difficult to determine whether too little or too much revenue has been diverted from other priorities in the state budget.

If the legislature deems the programs and purposes funded by this special fund to be a high priority, then it should maintain the accountability for these funds by appropriating the funds as it does with other programs. Earmarking revenues merely absolves elected officials from setting priorities. If the money were appropriated, lawmakers would have to evaluate the real or actual needs of each program.

Digested 2/4/2020

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 4:48:02 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
"Phil" Augustus Acosta	Aloha Harvest	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Onishi & San Buenaventura, and Vice Chair Holt & Nakamura,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1945.

At Aloha Harvest, we strive to create a less wasteful and more equitable food system. By collecting and redistributing food that would otherwise be discarded, we are able to feed more than 56,000 of Hawaii's hungry individuals and families annually (including the homeless), while reducing the effects of food waste to the environment and our economy. This year, as we celebrate our 20th year anniversary, we are proud to say that we have rescued over 23 million pounds of food from going into the waste stream. We could not have done that without the help of over 1,000 food donors, over 300 partner agencies, and our generous funders.

As tourism continues to be an integral part of Hawaii's economy, and the State having one of the highest per capita rate of homelessness, the unsheltered people on the streets of Waikiki and other well-visited areas certainly has a significant effect on the industry and the tourists' overall experience. This has been a constant concern with Legislators, and residents alike, and the discussions on what to do about the issue has polarized the community.

Fortunately, there are many non-profit organizations and civic clubs who are dedicated to help the hungry, needy, and homeless. Many with a specific focus in the Metro Honolulu and Waikiki areas. Aloha Harvest is proud to be a key partner in helping these organizations fulfill their mission by providing quality food, free of charge. This allows the NPOs to focus on what they do best, working with those in need to get them off the streets and back on their feet, while also helping their bottom line. In addition, Aloha Harvest works with many restaurants, grocery stores, and businesses in these areas, providing cost savings in disposal fees and tax savings. We are working together to build a more sustainable and resilient community, which is necessary for a thriving tourism industry.

The funds we have received through HLTA and the Visitor Industry Charity Walk, along with the matching funds from the State have been a tremendous help in allowing us to maintain our operations, assist the most vulnerable in our community, and spread the

word about our mission to Waste Less and Feed More. We urge this committee to pass HB1945 relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax. Thank you.



ALOHA MEDICAL MISSION

Bringing Hope and Changing the Lives of the People We Serve Overseas and in Hawai'i

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In Memoriam

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
U.S. Senate

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Past President

Charity Walk – Matching Homeless Grant

Aloha Medical Mission Final Report

Grant period 2019

\$8,000.00 Clinic & Outreach Operational Funding

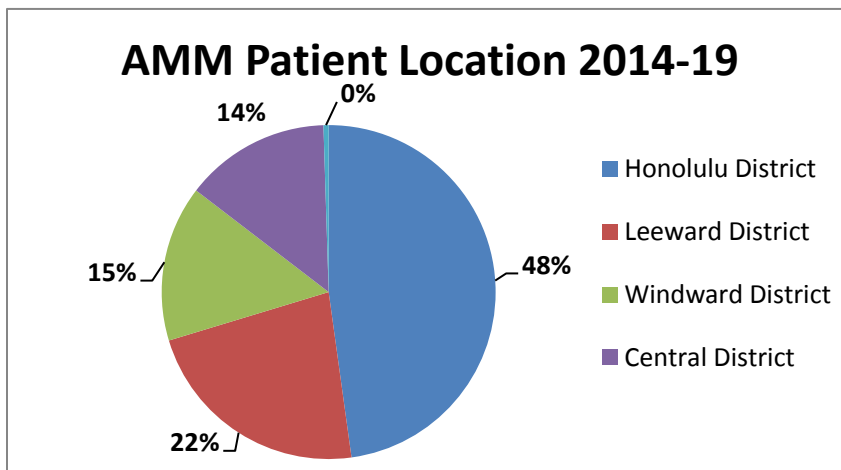
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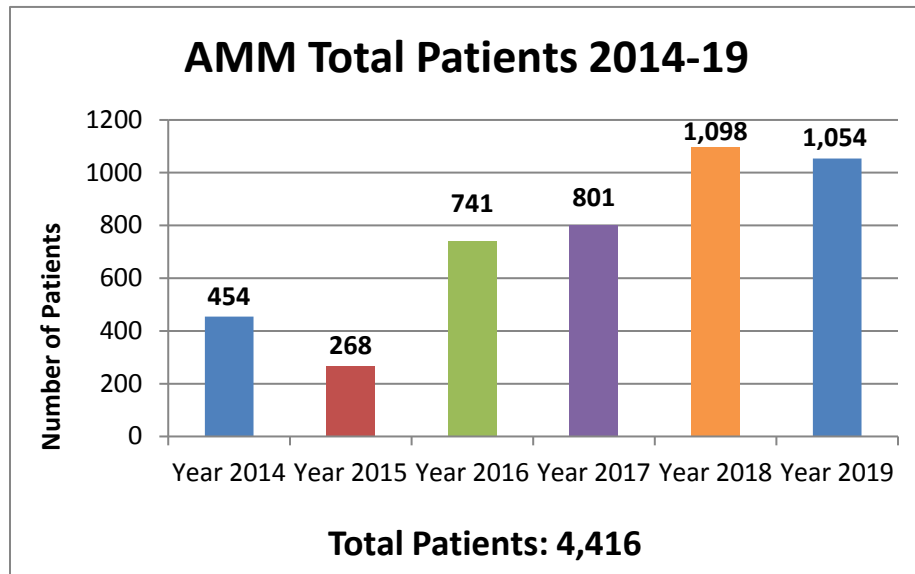
Ms. Jessica Caires
Director of Fiscal Services
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association
2270 Kalakaua Avenue, Suite 1702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Date: January 9, 2020

Organization Name: Aloha Medical Mission
Reporting Period: January – December 2019
Program Name: Clinic & Outreach
Matched Amount: \$8,000.00

- Does the Program receive funding from other sources to specifically address homelessness? No
- Brief Description of Program and Services Provided: Our name is our mission. From life-saving global surgeries to life-altering dental care, the Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) has brought hope to hundreds of thousands of people in need overseas and here in Hawaii. Here in Hawaii, we offer the only no-cost dental clinic in the state, serving the more than 500,000 uninsured residents with no access to dental care. We helped to fill a healthcare void by providing free interim basic care, including oral examinations, X-rays, fillings, cleanings, extractions, and limited root canals.
- No. of Individuals Served During Reporting Period: 1,054
- No. of Individuals Served During Reporting Period Identified as Homeless: 61; however, we did generate a mailing in October to 800 patients and around 200 came back undeliverable which could mean many things, but currently are unreachable.
- If unable to identify number of individuals experiencing homelessness, provide a short explanation of why this data cannot be captured: We capture patient demographic through a system called Dentrrix.
- Geographic Areas Served (check appropriate box and indicate zip codes): Oahu





- Describe how the Program and Services provided address the impact on tourism in the area served:

The conditions in which people are born, live, learn, work and play, worship, and age are considered the social determinants of health. These determinants include availability of resources to meet daily needs; access to educational, economic and job opportunities; access to health care services; availability of community-based resources; social attitudes, such as discrimination; socio-economic conditions, such as poverty; and the environment, such as worksites, school settings, and the neighborhood, of which 75% of them influences our health. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, health equity means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. In 2015 Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings Report, one of the recommendations was to expand access to the underserved, high risk population which is exactly the group AMM continues to serve. However, health disparities are rooted in inequities in opportunities and resources and exist by race, age, geography, and income.

Hawaii's Medicaid program for adults continues to cover only emergency extractions and seniors still need to purchase Medicare Part B for preventive dental care. According to the article by Civil Beat, "If You're Poor in Hawaii, A Visit to the Dentist Is A Luxury"; missing teeth are a visible sign of poverty, preventing people from pursuing jobs or opportunities to improve their status. In the Honolulu Star-Advertiser article of October 5, 2018, "Expanded coverage of dental care", two health insurers have invested \$1 million to provide free basic dental care for a portion of their at-risk Medicaid adults. Both insurers will not provide restorative treatment for at-risk women or root canal procedures that AMM have been providing to those who are eligible. Therefore, it is essential that the free Dental Clinic be maintained in Honolulu County.

In 2019 there were 119 patient visits from the zip code 96815 (the Waikiki tourism zone) as either these patients were unable to afford the sliding scale cost of a federally qualified health center or were referred by the Waikiki Health Center for treatment. We fill an important need as the **Mouth is A Gateway to Your Body's Health**. Good oral and dental hygiene can help prevent bad breath, tooth decay and gum disease—and can help you keep your teeth as you get older. An unhealthy mouth, especially if you have gum disease, may increase your risk of serious health problems such as heart attack, stroke, poorly controlled diabetes and preterm labor.



Farrington Health Academy Shadowing



Outreach Work



Homeless Partnership

We are honored to have the support from this amazing State and the Charity Walk matching program. The matching grant of \$8,000 increased our total to \$16,000 – a record year for our organization – allowing us to help more homeless in our community. Your program’s benefaction to AMM ensures that adequate dental care is available to the less fortunate in Hawaii.

With warm gratitude & aloha,

Toni A. Muranaka

toni@alohamedicalmission.org

808-847-3411



To: Members of the Committee on Tourism & International Affairs
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair
Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education, dba Hawai'i Arts Alliance, is writing to you to in support of HB 1945 RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX, which allocates TAT revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas.

One of our education programs, Turnaround Arts Hawai'i, has benefitted from these funds through the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association and its Visitor Industry Charity Walks. Over 1,500 students and teachers have been positively impacted with this support.

Turnaround Arts (TA) Hawai'i is affiliated with the national TA program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Our schools - Kalihi Kai Elementary School [K-5] and Kamaile Academy PCS [PreK-12] – currently are 2 of 79 schools nationwide participating in this program. Turnaround Arts is a partnership program that supports and guides high needs schools as they use the arts to amplify their improvement efforts. It is a two-pronged approach; 1) building high value arts assets in the schools; and 2) strategically leveraging those assets to better achieve broader school improvement goals. At the core, we believe that arts education programming can be strategically used to address persistent and pervasive problems commonly found in high poverty, underperforming schools, especially in the areas of school culture, climate, and engagement. This whole school design supports, builds, and reinforces student and staff success.

Both of our Title I schools have students and families experiencing homelessness. A majority of the students receive free and/or reduced lunch. In addition, all Kamaile Academy students receive free breakfast.

The visual presence of homelessness impacts both schools. A homeless encampment at Wai'anae Boat Harbor is two minutes away from the Kamaile campus. At Kalihi Kai, homeless people camp on the grounds at night. For safety purposes, Kalihi Kai kindergarten classrooms are locked during the day due to the busy adjacent Kalihi Street and questionable individuals hang out at the bus stops located there.

Through the Turnaround Arts Program, students practice and hone skills in creativity, communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. We know that these skills build a foundation in resiliency and confidence that our students will carry with them, as they become contributing citizens in our communities.

Sincerely,
Aaron Salā, Executive Director, Hawai'i Arts Alliance
Teri Skillman, Associate Director, Hawai'i Arts Alliance
Lei Ahsing, Education Director, Hawai'i Arts Alliance

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

February 7, 2020

To: Representative Richard Onishi, Chair
And members of the Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Testimony in Support of HB 1945 Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1945 Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax.

Specifically, HYSN supports the allocation of \$1,500,000 to address homelessness in tourism and resort areas. HYSN expresses no opinion on the other funding allocations in the bill.

For the past two years, HYSN has received funds from the Hawaii Tourism and Lodging Association that have supported professional development training for youth workers who provide services to runaway and homeless youth. The funds also provide a portion of the non-federal matching funds required for our federal grants that support outreach, emergency shelter and transitional living services to youth ages 12 – 21. Currently, these grants bring in \$550,000 per year in federal funds to help the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population – our children and youth.

On behalf of the homeless children and youth and their families who will benefit from this initiative, we ask for your support on HB 1945.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:48:28 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Murph	Community Alliance Partners, the Hawaii Island CoC for Homelessness	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 9:10:27 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Tornai	Habitat for Humanity Maui	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Max Tornai and I'm testifying on behalf of Habitat for Humanity Maui in support of HB1945 - especially Section 2.6. pertaining to matching funds to be used to address homelessness in tourist or resort areas . I work at Habitat for Humanity Maui as development director, and we have been fortunate enough to receive similar matching funds for the past two fiscal years. Habitat Maui is currently finishing 10 new homes in Lahaina and we have plans for 25 more new homes in Hana - both areas that experience heavy tourism-related traffic and are highly visible to a large number of visitors from around the world. Both Lahaina and Hana are suffering from extreme affordable housing shortages and many in Hana especially are dealing with extreme overcrowding in existing housing. We regularly hear from Hana residents who share with us that there are households where full families are residing in each bedroom; where a 4 bedroom house will have over 20 people permanently living in it. These situations are unacceptable and unsafe on a number of different levels.

Habitat Maui also operates a Homeownership & Financial Literacy course, which is a HUD-approved curriculum guiding participants in how to budget effectively, improve their credit and credit scores, and make smart monetary decisions to become financially self-sufficient - and ultimately homeowner ready.

Additionally, Habitat Maui has coordinated Disaster Relief efforts and materials for families that became homeless due to fires or flooding (most notably for those in Lahaina who lost everything in fires during Hurricane Lane in 2018).

Over the past two fiscal years, these funds have come through at critical times. Please consider supporting HB1945.

Mahalo,

Max Tornai

Development Director

Habitat for Humanity Maui



February 4, 2020

Representative Richard Onishi, Chair
Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
House Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Hawaii State Legislature

Testimony in Support of HB1945

Dear Representatives Onishi, Holt, San Buenaventura, Nakamura and Members of the House Committee on Tourism and International Affairs and House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1945.

The Kohala Coast Resort Association (KCRA) is in support of allocating funding from the transient accommodations taxes to the Hawaii Tourism Authority in partnership with the Hawaii Lodging Tourism Association to address homelessness throughout the state. We know there has been success with repatriation initiatives on Oahu, Maui and Kauai, and look forward to the repatriation program being implemented on Hawaii Island.

Our member properties are actively involved in the annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk, which helps to provide the matching funds from the industry for these important projects. Hope Services Hawaii was one of the primary beneficiaries from our efforts in 2018 and 2019, and we look forward to further opportunities to partner with them and their important efforts to address homelessness on Hawaii Island in the coming years.

KCRA is a collection of master-planned resorts and hotels situated north of the airport which represents more than 3,500 hotel and timeshare accommodations and an equal number of resort residential units. This is approximately 35 percent of the accommodations available on the Island of Hawai'i. KCRA member properties annually pay more than \$20 million in TAT, \$20 million in GET and \$11 million in property taxes.

We encourage your support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Donoho
Administrative Director

TIAtestimony

From: Cathy Butler <cathy@kauaifoodpantry.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 8:09 AM
To: TIAtestimony
Cc: Kurt Last
Subject: HB1945

To whole it may concern,

I am writing to support HB1945. I am on the Board of Directors of the Kauai North Shore Food Pantry and the operations manager.

We serve approximately 75 families each week that are food insecure. Approximately a quarter are houseless. Many feel they have a tent so therefor not homeless . The Hawai Board of tourism has given us a grant of \$5,500 last year and it would be an amazing help if we could get a matching grant.

Sent from my iPad

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:59:49 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauai Food Bank Inc.	Kauai Independent Food Bank	Support	No

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE THIRTIETH
LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

Committee on Human services and Homelessness

Kelvin Moniz, Executive Director of Kauai Food Bank
3285 Waapa Rd, Lihue, HI
96766 (808) 246-3809

HB1945, Transient Accommodation Tax, 9:00 am at Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

Kaua'i Food Bank is in full support of Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) revenues bill, via a tourism special fund, to generate and appropriate funds to be used by the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association (HL & TA) to address homelessness on Kauai occurring in tourist and resort areas (-subject to private matching funds).

Kauai Food Bank has a long standing history of providing food and household goods to homeless individuals. We have worked in partnership with the Hawaii Tourism Authority in the past and value the work they do to address homelessness occurring on Kaua'i in our tourist and resort areas. Kauai Food Bank agrees that homelessness has a negative impact on the experience tourists have when visiting Kauai. Issues of concern are aesthetics, such as the cleanliness of public bathrooms, and the increased risk to the health and safety of tourists when homeless individuals are seeking accommodations, or money, and choose to occupy areas that are shared with the public. Kauai Food Bank helps provides food and goods to homeless individuals and provides supplies and foods to partnering agencies that directly feed, and/or house, homeless individuals. Kauai Food bank knows that local organizations and efforts that provide services, and meet the needs of homeless individuals, reduces the need for homeless to occupy public spaces, especially tourist areas, and/or approach or harass tourists.

Sincerely,

Kelvin Moniz



Friends of the Children's Justice Center of East Hawaii

P. O. Box 6908 ▲ Hilo, HI 96720

Bus: (808) 935-8755 ▲ Fax: (808) 935-8757

Representative Richard H. K. Onishi, Chair
Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

Stephanie Oshiro, President
Robin Benedict, Program Coordinator
Friends of the Children's Justice Center of East Hawaii
808-935-8755
P.O Box 6908, Hilo, HI 96720

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Our organization focus is on meeting the needs of documented abused and neglected children in East Hawaii, and striving to make our public aware of child abuse and child abuse prevention. We work together with community agencies, as the last resource for these children. We strive to ease family stress and give children a sense of normalcy. We have received funding from the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association. Homeless situations are captured in the narrative of our "Special Needs Request" forms. We have frequent requests for beds, bedding, clothing, hygiene items, services and items to meet medical needs, structured care programs, and intersession activities for children who are homeless or in shelter. In some instances, parents are looking for work so that they can find stable housing, and in other cases on the verge of homelessness because of lost employment, or even a homeless teen on the streets, who is a victim of abuse.

Passing HB 1945 would allow continued funding, to meet the critical frontline efforts, which combat homelessness on a daily basis. Here are only a few of the ways we have been able to help:

A homeless family living on pallets. We were able to provide warm clothing for an asthmatic child and a tarp to replace the wall where the child was sleeping, to keep the child safe and warm.

A homeless teenager, who did in-kind services for food and shelter. We were able to work with the school counselor to make sure he had clothing, footwear, school uniforms, and school supplies so that he could finish his last year in high school. He graduated and went on to vocational training.

A single father caring for his young children and in shelter. We were able to pay for a summer program for the children so that he could seek employment and find stable housing.

In all the stories listed above, we partnered with other local community agencies working directly with children and families, as they had exhausted all other resources to meet the requested emergency or special need. When making your decision on HB 1945 please consider the huge positive impact on our homeless community and making a difference.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Oshiro
FCJC-EH / President

Robin Benedict
FCJC-EH / Program Coordinator

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:54:27 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick F. Hurney	Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha from Hawaii Island,

I strongly support HB 1945! It provides funding for homeless programs from the TAT that target homelessness areas around tourist attractions and resorts.

mahalo

Patrick Hurney

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:04:45 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Munoz	Ho'ola Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Dear TIA/HSB and FIN Committees,

Even with the great work being done in and around our communities to address the Hawai'i homeless problem, homelessness in our state continues to be an issue. Homelessness and trafficking are two traumatizing situations that are often put in silos and not addressed together; however, the two are intrinsically tied together.

Being homeless significantly increases the vulnerability for children to be recruited, conned, and exploited through sex trafficking. Whether being homeless as a family or as an individual runaway --- survival for youth can lead to desperate measures resulting in victimization. Youth who end up homeless may be running away to escape physical and sexual abuse and sadly, others have been ordered out of the home by parents who reject them or cannot afford to take care of them. Often disconnected from family and friends, homeless kids are particularly susceptible to traffickers who lure them with the promise of food, warmth, "safety and security" and false love.

In 2018, Hawaii had the third highest rate of unsheltered, unaccompanied homeless youth in the country. In a study published this year by the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and Arizona State University, the connection between homelessness and sex trafficking was reinforced with local data provided by survey participants receiving services from Child & Family Service. Out of 363 participants, 97 of them reported that they had experienced sex trafficking. More than *two thirds* of the sex trafficking victims reported that they had experienced homelessness in their lifetimes. Sex trafficking victims who reported being homeless were more likely to report also having been in foster care or a group home as a child. Sex trafficking victims who also reported having experienced homelessness were also more likely to report having witnessed domestic violence in their childhood homes. These youth are on average 11 years old when they first experience trafficking.

These young people often flee abuse and violence at home but are exposed to further sexual victimization and human trafficking once on the street. The National Runaway Safeline presented the following data on runaway statistics:

- Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away each year 34% of runaway youth (girls and boys) reported sexual abuse before leaving home.

- Within 48 hours of a runaway being on the streets, “ adolescents will be approached for sexual services

Minimally, there are hundreds of Hawai'i's children who are vulnerable to traffickers each month and with this growing crisis we face in our beautiful state those numbers will only increase.

Given the complex needs of this population of children, managing and meeting the needs can be difficult. When children do not receive comprehensive services, they tend to return to the streets, back to the arms of those who exploit them. Ho'ola Na Pua commends the committees for their desire to put into place a strategy to prevent youth homelessness, minimize street homelessness, and support the organizations that provide stability, safety, and access to necessary services in order to truly address the complex psycho-social needs of this population.

Mahalo,

Jessica Munoz

President, Ho'ola Na Pua



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1945: RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

TO: Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair, Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, and Members, Committees on Tourism & International Affairs, and Human Services and Housing.
FROM: Rob Van Tassel, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Wednesday, February 12, 2020; 9:00 AM; CR 329**

Chair Onishi, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members, Committees on Tourism & International Affairs, and Human Services & Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support HB 1945**, which would allocate TAT revenues to the tourism special fund and appropriate funds to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas. I am Rob Van Tassel, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i.

This bill helps fill gaps statewide in homeless services in tourist areas, while requiring that the local service providers provide a 1-to-1 match of their grant. For example, in 2019, Catholic Charities Hawaii's Big Island program received a \$40,000 grant which they matched by obtaining community support from Catholic parishes to participate in the local Charity Walk. They even creatively organized a Pastors' Challenge. This leveraging of funds is an important part of this bill. Local communities must support these homeless services in order to obtain these grants. Kauai and Maui also received grants to help address homelessness on their islands.

The gap services provided include deposits, rent, back due utilities, etc. as well as items not usually available from homeless programs such as baby and adult diapers, baby supplies, transportation coupons/tickets, etc. Move-in kits and mattresses and bedding when families move into permanent housing are also in demand. For example, one young couple from Kona was homeless with a 2 week old baby. The mother had a C-section birth and was still recuperating from this surgery. Seeing this family at the Convoy of Hope event, CCH and HOPE Services staff collaborated on the spot to find safe shelter for them. They were temporarily sheltered on cots in a transitional home while waiting for space in the Kihei Pua Family Shelter in Hilo. Ultimately, the family was housed in transitional housing back in Kona. CCH was able to use the ACT 86 funds to help fill this family's basic needs including transportation, critical baby supplies (diapers, formula, bottles, etc.) as well as food until they were placed. Families can be moved from unsheltered living to housing with some interim help.

We urge your support for HB 1945 and **\$1.5 million to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas**. If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at (808) 373-0356, or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org.



HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 8:10:03 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Deges	Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation	Support	No

Comments:



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committees on:
Tourism and International Affairs
Human Services and Homelessness

House Bill 1945, Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Chair Onishi, Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committees, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers — **strongly supports** House Bill 1945 which allocates funds, from TAT revenues if it is matched by the private sector for homelessness solutions. Specifically, we support that the bill recognizes the continued partnership between the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) and the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association (HLTA) in seeking to implement initiatives to address homelessness in tourism impacted areas throughout the state.

Homelessness is particularly acute in Waikiki and Honolulu, but is prevalent throughout popular public parks, beaches, and facilities used by residents and visitors alike throughout our state. It has a direct impact on the visitor experience, is a source of frustration for local residents, and poses a very difficult and often dangerous existence for the homeless.

The hospitality industry, through our association and member hotels and businesses, has placed a laser-like focus on addressing the many issues around homelessness. Over the past 6 years we have contributed well over \$3 million to non-profit organizations on our largest islands, specifically for homelessness outreach, housing, repatriation, and social services. These funds have come from a collaborative effort put forth by the hospitality industry which include monies from our charity walks on Oahu, Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, and Maui as well as fundraisers held by our lodging members such as the Hawai'i for Hawai'i Benefit concerts.

We thank the Legislature for consideration of HB1945 and would like to express our gratitude for passage of a similar measure in 2018. Through ACT 86 (2018) we have worked in close collaboration with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to utilize the full \$1 million allocated to help homelessness programs across our islands. These funds have been spread statewide, helping organizations such as Catholic Charities and Hope Services on Hawai'i Island; Ka Hale a Ke Ola Homeless Resource Center and Family Life Center on Maui; Ohana Christian Fellowship and Kauai Independent Food Bank on Kauai; and Mental Health Kokua, Corvette Center Ministries, and River of Life Mission on Oahu, to name a few. The private funding for these

homelessness programs came primarily from the Visitor Industry Charity Walk, which awarded 104 grants to vetted homelessness programs in 2018 and 2019 amassing over \$795,000 in private donations. Thanks to the public private partnership established in ACT 86 (2018) these non-profits were able to receive a second contribution from the State of Hawai'i to fulfill their mission of combating homelessness.

In addition to the monies matched from the Visitor Industry Charity Walk, we were able to allocate funds to long-time industry partner and leader in the state's repatriation efforts, the Institute for Human Services, to support their Waikiki Outreach Program, and to two nonprofits in the downtown Honolulu region working hand-in-hand with the Honolulu Police Department to alleviate homelessness in the Chinatown district. The matching funds given to the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center and the Chinatown Improvement District, were a direct result of the tourism industry's 2019 Visitor Public Safety Conference, where HPD's Chief Susan Ballard asked the hospitality industry for support in their proactive approach to diverting homeless on our streets into social services.

Moving forward, the members of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association will continue to fund-raise and donate money through our Visitor Industry Charity Walk and other endeavors to help the homeless population. We appreciate the support from House Tourism Chair Richard Onishi, who has once again introduced this measure for the industry, and to the leadership in both the House of Representatives and Senate for helping us make this important public-private partnership a reality. For these reasons we respectfully urge passage of HB1945.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1945

TO: Chair Onishi, Vice-Chair Holt, and Members of the
House Tourism & International Affairs Committee

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Nakamura, and Members of the
House Human Services & Homelessness Committee

FROM: Heather Lusk
Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

DATE: February 12, 2020 (9:00 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **strongly supports** HB 1945, which would allocate transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA) to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas subject to private matching funds.

HHHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions.

HHHRC spearheaded efforts that formed the hui that produced Honolulu LEAD (law enforcement assisted diversion), a collaborative effort with the Honolulu Police Department and, hopefully one day, the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office to steer those who are unsheltered or unstably housed away from the criminal legal system and toward stable housing and needed medical care and social services.

[As the first-year LEAD evaluation has shown](#), intensive outreach and case management can yield beneficial results that would not otherwise be forthcoming in an approach that

emphasizes over-criminalization and over-incarceration. As noted by the editorial board of the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, “This kind of sustained outreach is an investment that ultimately yields lasting improvement in the lives of the chronically homeless, and saves public resources as well.” ([“Editorial: A New Approach to the Homeless,”](#) November 5, 2019)

LEAD has now expanded to the other major islands and we hope that the Legislature will continue to favorably view the program’s salutary impacts on underserved populations and the communities in which they live throughout the state.

HHRC remains grateful for the support provided by the HLTA last year, which helped fund these critical LEAD case management services. (Dan Nakaso, [“Funding Boosts Efforts to Reduce Chinatown Homelessness,”](#) *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, July 25, 2019.) Without the funding received we would have been very hard-pressed to provide the level of case management necessary to move people into shelter and to facilitate their health and well-being.

We hope that continued TAT funding will be available to help supplement public efforts to provided needed outreach and case management services to the unsheltered and unstably housed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Because every child deserves a home.

February 11, 2020

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Samantha Church

RE: HB1945, support for tourism special fund to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas and comments on utilization of funds

Members of the Human Services and Homelessness Committee, Tourism & International Affairs Committee,

Since 2006, Family Promise of Hawaii has provided shelter and supportive services for over 2,700 parents and children experiencing housing instability on Oahu. Homelessness is one of the most complex social issues impacting our community. There are personal, programmatic, and systemic issues that have resulted in the current challenges our community faces in addressing homelessness.

We appreciate the public/private partnership that the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association has developed with the legislature to match funding raised from the Visitor Industry Charity Walk. For the past two years, this funding has allowed us to continue helping vulnerable families in our community transition from homelessness into permanent housing. **While we support a tourism special fund to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, we strongly urge this fund to invest in programming that not just hides the problem, but results in long-term permanent housing and support for those in need.**

Homeless service providers work tirelessly to help folks transition from homelessness to permanent housing, but we can't do this without the continuation of public/private partnerships and funding for proven programming which helps vulnerable individuals and families transition to permanent housing.

With Much Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S Church", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Samantha Church, MSW
Executive Director



February 11, 2020

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Aloha Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Holt and members of the House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs, as well as Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura and members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony *in support of* HB 1945, which allocates TAT revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA) to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds.

Hawaii Foodbank regularly provides food to 1 in 8 Hawaii residents each year, approximately 12.5% of the state's population (almost 59,000 households). Last year, we distributed over 12 million pounds of food on Oahu (10.7 million) and Kauai (1.3 million), a majority of which was donated (89%). Although majority of the families we serve are working families, we also work to serve the houseless population on both islands with the help of our partner agencies.

Last year, Hawaii Foodbank Oahu & Kauai purchased 10% of the food we distributed. In past years, we have been beneficiaries of HLTA's Charity Walk. With the funding we received on Oahu, we were able to provide hot meals, bags of food and/or shelter in Ala Moana and Waikiki districts serving over 15,000 people. Items such as backpacks, flashlights, toiletries, rain jackets and socks were purchased to create fully packed care packages and were provided to 90 people at Kukui Grove on Kauai who identified as homeless. In addition, we were able to utilize some of the funding towards Kauai's non-CDL truck of which we were very much in need of.

We are grateful for support that this funding provides to serve those in need.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

With much respect and aloha,

Ron Mizutani
Hawaii Foodbank
President and Chief Executive Officer

Marielle Terbio
Hawaii Foodbank
Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy



**FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER OF OAHU
3019 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817**

Date 02/11/2020

To: House Chairs Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura and Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi


Subject: HB1945, Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Hearing Date, Time & Location: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

My name is Jenna Tomas, Program Director for Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu. We are in strong support of HB1945.

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu (FCJCO) is the nonprofit partner of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu. We support local child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, sex trafficking, and witnesses to violent crime. We also assist children who have been severely neglected or exposed to drugs. Many of the families that we assist are struggling with poverty. Our organization assists these financially strapped families to help prevent them from becoming homeless, or assist them in escaping homelessness. By providing essential and basic needs for children we can lessen a family's financial burden. We also help provide basic needs for child victims of abuse residing in homeless shelters. Providing assistance to these children in the form of items such as clothing and toiletries, music lessons, or funds for extracurricular activities impacts our community by helping children who have been harmed, heal and become more resilient. Positive outcomes lead to children developing into healthy and contributing members of the community.

In closing, we are in strong support of HB1945 and ask for your assistance in its passing during this legislative session. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 808-445-1873.



Jenna Tomas
Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu
808-445-1873, 3019 Pali Highway Honolulu, HI 96817

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 11:32:20 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Pyo	Aloha Harvest	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:15:03 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Figueroa	HOPE Services Hawaii, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

LATE

**HiEHiE Talking Points
In support of HB1945**

The Bill allocates TAT revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds.

The HiEHiE Hospitality Project has received matching funding through the Hawaii Tourism and Lodging Association and the matching funds proposed in this bill.

HiEHiE is a program of Project Vision Hawaii, a grassroots statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing access to healthcare and human services.

As the Board President of Project Vision Hawaii, I am proud of our outreach efforts to bring vision and health care to people experiencing homelessness throughout Hawaii.

HiEHiE brings hot, private showers to children and adults experiencing homelessness using mobile hygiene trailers that travel to urban and rural areas of Oahu and Hawaii Island.

- This is needed because going without daily hygiene affects one's health and mental wellbeing and contributes to the stigma associated with homelessness.
- In addition to the daily difficulties of finding meals and shelter, while keeping themselves and their belongings safe, individuals who are homeless must find water for drinking and bathing.
- In 2019, we provided 2,662 hot showers on Oahu and Hawaii Island combined.
- We connect with each person, often over multiple interactions, building trust and mutual respect. As our guests gain a sense of rapport, they gain confidence and are more receptive to discussions about shelter options and other resources available to them.

This program “meets people where they are,” mobilizing resources, establishing a place of support, and addressing head-on the healthcare crisis faced by people who are without permanent homes. This important work would not be possible without public and private support.

As you know, the prevalence of homelessness has a negative impact on the economy, quality of life, and wellbeing of this community. Hawaii can only reach its potential as a destination of excellence when all members of the community have access to daily meals, safe shelter, and support for their physical and mental health. Project Vision is a key player working toward this ideal.

Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Authority grants and matching funds play an important role in supporting this work.



PROJECT VISION HAWAII
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Divisional Leaders

The Salvation Army

Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division



Testimony of
Anna Stone
Director, Pathway of Hope
The Salvation Army

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
February 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

In consideration of
H.B. 1945,
Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

The Salvation Army strongly supports H.B. 1945, which proposes to appropriate funds to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas. Passage of this bill will boost current chronic homelessness efforts, helping to sustain progress that has already been achieved by the state, city, county, and non-profit homeless providers. If left unaddressed, persistent homelessness in these public, highly visible areas could have a negative impact on the rate of tourists and visitors staying in the resort areas, resulting in a negative trickle-down effect on our local families that benefit from employment in the hospitality industry. According to the Aloha United Way's ALICE Report, businesses catering to domestic and international tourists contribute 21% to our state's economy and provide employment to about half of Hawaii residents. Any shift in employment or loss of work hours due to a decrease in business in this industry will unfortunately be felt first by those who are already struggling. As you may know, the mission of The Salvation Army is to serve those who are the most in need, without discrimination. We fully support efforts such as H.B. 1945 that not only address the issue of homelessness directly, but also have a positive impact on important economic drivers that help keep our workers fully employed.

The Pathway of Hope's Family Services Office, a member of Partners in Care, has been a frontline provider of homeless financial assistance, food, and clothing in Hawaii since 1987. We also provide assistance to those who are at 30-50% of the area median income, many of whom are in the hospitality and service industries.

The Family Services Office receives both public and private funds to help at-risk households that depend on service jobs. We are grateful for the financial support we have received from the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association's matching grant program. The funding has enabled The Salvation Army, through the Pathway of Hope's Family Services Office, to operate a hub where financial aid, food, clothing, and resources are provided to the homeless and families at-risk of homelessness. We join with our community partners to express our strong support of H.B. 1945.

Thank you.



Aloha United Way
Hawaii Island United Way
Kaua'i United Way
Maui United Way

Our AUW Designation
Number is 96450

P.O. Box 620 ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809-0620 ♦ Tel: (808) 988-2136 ♦ Fax: (808) 988-5285
Visit us at: Hawaii.SalvationArmy.org

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:26:09 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr Mary	Hale Kau Kau	Support	No

Comments:

Hale Kau Kau is a non profit here in South Maui. We feed those who are hungry every day of the year, we have not missed a day in 27 years. We deliver meals to the homebound elderly and disabled as well as serving a hot meal to anyone who comes by the kitchen in the evening.

Fundraisers, Grants and Partnerships are the way that we can survive and continue serving those in need. We have also been able to host other groups working with the homeless to come and meet the homeless population at dinner time. Due to their intervention, we have been placing some of the homeless in housing. Please support this bill so that we can continue our mission to feed those who are hungry. Thank you for your consideration for the passage of HB1945

With warmest aloha.

Dr Mary, Volunteer fundraising chair for Hale Kau Kau and Secretary to the Board

LATE

LATE

Testimony on House Bill No. 1945

Presented to Committee Chair Rep. Richard H.K Onishi and Vice Chair Rep. Daniel Holt
And Members of the Committee on Tourism & International Affairs

February 10, 2020

By Deborah Spencer-Chun
President & CEO, Adult Friends for Youth

Aloha, I am in strong support of House Bill 1945 Section (1) that allocates funds to Hawaii Tourism Authority in conjunction with Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Associates to implement initiatives to address homelessness in Tourist and Resort areas. There is an urgent need to address the homeless situation in these areas because it eventually leads to crime, drugs and violence against visiting tourist. Despite regular sweeps conducted by HPD, this situation has not deterred the homeless from returning. Adult Friends for Youth has worked with over 50 homeless youth and young adults and continues to follow up in responding to their needs. Many have families and friends who are also homeless and in desperate need of food and shelter. I know this situation will not go away unless we do something about it. It is a topic that has been talked about for years and yet very little to show for it. Promoting Hawaii as a beautiful tourist destination can be hindered when homelessness is visible and disregarded. These allocated funds can support the efforts of many to help make a difference in combating the homeless epidemic here in our islands. There is beauty all around when we take care of these needs. It becomes a win, win situation for everyone when we take care of our own.

There are many individuals and families who depend on us make the right decisions. I sincerely hope we don't let them down.

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 2:52:44 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CURTIS TSUZAKI	Corvette Center Ministries	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am the Founder and President of Corvette Center Ministries, a 501 c (3) organization in the state of Hawaii that helps homeless with housing and programs. I have been receiving state money through HB 1945 for two years which has enabled my organization to create three homes for homeless men and women. Without the funds we would not have been able to do the kind of work we do, which involves housing the homeless and providing mentorship and work programs. In the past year and a half we have helped six men and women who had formerly been homeless. We provide outreach programs to the homeless living on the streets and parks and also partner with other transitional shelters and drug rehab programs which assist the homeless. We work with two local businesses who provide vocational training and also encourage our clients with micro business ventures. We also partner with local churches. Our clients can stay up to a year in which time they can become sustainable and pay for affordable housing either in our network or elsewhere. HB 1945 will allow Corvette Center Ministries to continue to offer low cost housing to the homeless and step up efforts to take the homeless directly off the beaches and parks where they currently reside, which has a direct impact on the tourism industry. Please give your support for HB 1945.



LATE

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Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1945: RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.
Hearing: Wednesday, 2/12/20; 9:00 am; Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **testimony in support of HB 1945**, which allocates TAT revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds.

For the last two years, we have received matching funds from donations solicited during the Hawaii Island Charity Walk, as a result of this allocation. The Charity Walk is a significant fundraiser for us, as private donors are more motivated to give when they know their donation will go further. Beyond that, the Charity Walk gives us a chance to be present with our donors and supporters, as well as to build bridges with the resort and tourism community.

As tourism is the state’s largest industry, and the lack of affordable housing is arguably its largest problem, a relationship between the industry and service providers is important if we are to work together toward a solution. By partnering on such events, we can build an understanding of the relationship between tourism and homelessness, and a commitment to making housing affordable for all of our local residents.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of our comments **in support of HB 1945**.

Sincerely,

Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



HOPE SERVICES HAWAII, INC.
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Hilo, HI 96720
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fax: (808) 935-3794

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February 11, 2020

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair



RE: HB 1945 Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax-IN SUPPORT

Dear Representatives Onishi, Buenaventura and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony for HB 1945. This bill requests that the legislature authorize an allocation of funds from the transient accommodations tax revenues to the Hawaii tourism authority for the implementation of initiatives, in conjunction with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas. These funds would only be released when fully matched by the private sector.

I am the Deputy CEO for Hale Kipa. Our programs, particularly the Youth Outreach (YO!) Program, jointly operated with Waikiki Health, has benefited from this creative way to blend and leverage monies. Our work is focused on providing street outreach, a drop-in Center, case management and other services seeking to help minors and young adults replace homelessness with stable housing, education and employment. Outreach workers canvas the streets (primarily in Waikiki and downtown Honolulu) on a regular basis identifying youth we could assist with basic survival needs and help get reconnected with safe people and placed in safe homes. Our budget tends to be tight and any monies afforded to us from this initiative truly helps us provide these critical services.

Hale Kipa hopes you will look favorably on this bill and allow your monies to match what the private sector also reaps in support of services for our population who is homeless.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, MSW
Deputy CEO, Hale Kipa, Inc.



LATE

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 7:25:56 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Madeline Powell	Keiki Cupboard	Support	No

Comments:

Keiki Cupboard is a grass roots non-profit started on Maui 10 years ago by a mother and her adult daughters to provide school supplies to students in need on Maui. We now have 8 volunteer Board members. We have set up "cupboards" in **all** of the public schools on Maui and we deliver school supplies to Lanai & Molokai. We have been participating in the Maui Charity Walk for 7 years now, and last year we received matching grant funds from the Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Assoc. It was such a nice surprise and has helped to keep our school cupboards stocked and given us the extra funds to do special requests in some schools. For example - I was contacted by one of my schools that I service, by a math teacher that wanted to know if we could help them with providing math learning tools for not only the classrooms but also for the special needs students. With the extra matching funds that we received from HLTA we were able to fulfill the schools wish list. Because we are now present in all of the public schools on Maui, we know that our supplies, hygiene items, shoes and special requests are being made available to all students in need including the homeless children that would normally not have access to the same tools to succeed.

Thank you for all of your help!

Madeline Powell

Keiki Cupboard - Board Member



Honolulu
Habitat
for Humanity®



February 12, 2020

Executive Committee:

To TIA/HCH Committees

Judy Mohr Peterson, President
State of Hawai'i - Medicaid

Re: Support of Bill 1945

Paige Heckathorn Choy,
Vice-President
Healthcare Association of Hawai'i

I am writing today to express my support of HB1945, intended to allocate TAT revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas.

Directors:

Ku'uwehi Hiraishi
Hawai'i Public Radio

Tourism is arguable the largest business sector in Hawaii. Homeless and affordable housing is arguably the largest challenge facing the state. To that end, support of this bill allows the strength of this revenue to be directed towards sustainable solutions. Solutions provided by the organizations that the HTA and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association support.

Chris Hong
English Hong Design

Robert Kroeger
Central Pacific Bank

Rufino Dan Magliba
Alaka'ina Foundation

Mahalo,

Teal Takayama
State of Hawai'i

Alexa Tim
Island Pacific Distributors, Inc.

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LATE

Aloha, I am Jocelyn Kimura of the Aloha Medical Mission, Hawaii's Only No-Cost Dental Clinic. I'd like to say a big MAHALO to Representative Onishi, Vice Chair Holt, and the members of the Committee for the appropriation of funds in the 2018 fiscal year. Aloha Medical Mission was a proud recipient of this funding.

We are in favor of House Bill HB 1945.

The Aloha Medical Mission is home to Hawaii's Only No-Cost Dental Clinic. We serve the 30 percent of the state population that lacks dental insurance and care for about 120 patients a month.

For the houseless, dental care is not usually a priority, which can lead to tooth decay; gum disease; and other health issues. The mouth is the gateway to the body's health! An unhealthy mouth may increase the risk of serious health problems such as heart attack; stroke; poorly controlled diabetes; and preterm labor. We fill the healthcare void by providing FREE interim basic care: including oral examinations; x-rays; fillings; cleanings; extractions; and limited root canals.

The opportunity to see a dental provider brings the patient pain relief and comfort and can allow them to make improvements in their lives as they gain confidence with better oral health. The increase in confidence brings back their smiles and self-esteem. Self-esteem is vital to living a happier and healthier life.

In 2019, this funding assisted the dental program to see 1,054 patients and provide \$855,000 in in-kind dental services. We were honored to have the support of the State and the Visitor Industry Charity Walk's matching program.

In conclusion, your support of HB 1945 will allow programs like ours to continue to reach the houseless one by one, offering a change in their oral healthcare that can affect their personal outlook. We, at the Aloha Medical Mission, are committed to improve the lives and the smiles of the underserved and uninsured in our communities.

Thank you so much for your time and for the opportunity to speak. Mahalo!

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:44:56 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carmie Spellman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:54:11 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brannndon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Distinguished Chair and Council,

As someone who has grown up on O'ahu my entire life, I have always found our homeless situation to be most appalling. As a state that relies largely on tourism, it is appalling to see the large numbers of mentally unstable and drug addicted people on the streets. It is terrible that people live in these conditions but our state is incapable of handling such large portions of the mainland's homeless along with our own. I believe this bill will encourage other states to take responsibility for their transient populations and deal with the root causes. I also believe this will help our state deal with the root causes of why people are forced onto the street. Additionally to help maintain positive economic growth we need to keep our tourist zones as pristine as possible so we do not ruin our reputation. I hope this bill will encourage us to really help those who are on the street and tackle the reasons why people lose their homes.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Sincerely Brandon E

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 4:17:14 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB-1945 RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX.

LATE

HB-1945

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 3:30:43 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2020 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claudine San Nicolas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha State Legislators!

As the former program director at Hale Kau Kau, I can assure you that money granted to the feeding ministry at St. Theresa Church made meaningful impacts in our effort to alleviate hunger, especially for the homeless in South Maui. Because of legislation in 2019, Hale Kau Kau was awarded more than \$100,000 in "matching" funds we collected for the annual Maui Charity Walk.

Funds granted by the Hawaii Tourism Authority and administered through the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association motivated us to carry out more diligently our mission -- to feed with compassion and aloha. We learned that the money was appropriated at the State Legislature. Mahalo!

Hale Kau Kau has spent 28 consecutive years -- never, ever missing a single day -- in feeding the hungry and the homeless, insuring a community that welcomes thousands of visitors each day, is doing its best to address the needs of those unsheltered. We shudder to think about the negative impacts a hungry and homeless individual can have on a community.

In addition, Hale Kau Kau regularly welcomes visitors to South Maui who appreciate our mission and offer to spend a part of their vacations, helping us to feed the hungry and homeless. Hale Kau Kau employs one cook, a part-time cook, a part-time security guard, and one program director to operate a ministry whose budget exceeds \$500,000.

We support Bill 1945 as a means to continue our work in South Maui to feed the hungry and the homeless. Hale Kau Kau has and will continue to pledge support of other nonprofits who come by our soup kitchen to extend to our daily dinner "guests" other services including mental health care, vision screening and supplementary food assistance.

Thank you for your vote of support to help the homeless throughout the aloha state.